

Chief Montroll, while holding a full-time law enforcement job at Harbor Police Department, enrolled in Southern University at New Orleans and obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. Soon thereafter, she secured her Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of New Orleans. "Education is the key to doors that cannot be opened normally."

Within two years of her being employed by the Harbor Police Department, she was promoted to Corporal, which gave her officer supervisory responsibilities within the department. After many awards and accommodations, she was promoted to Sergeant, which included being the Director of Training and the Commander of the Marine division. This position prepared her to, once again, be promoted. This time to Lieutenant, and those responsibilities made her the Commander of the Criminal Investigations and Internal Affairs Division.

As a reward for Chief Montroll's hard work and dedication, she was promoted to Assistant Chief of the Harbor Police Department in 2017 with the rank of Captain. The job included Captain of all Platoons, Communications and Surveillance Center, Criminal Investigations and Internal Affairs, Maritime Security Operations Center, Bicycle Division, Training Division, and the day-to-day operations of the Harbor Police Department. She supervised security guards working under the purview of the Harbor Police Department. She was responsible for ensuring adequate and efficient deployment of patrol officers to various sections of the Port of New Orleans as well as overseeing the Port of New Orleans Fireboat Boat and 9-member crew. She was responsible for three civilian staff in charge of emergency operations and homeland security. She was responsible for the fiscal budget for the department and responsible for the Port of New Orleans remaining compliant with MTS (Coast Guard Regulations) and Commander of Harbor Police Department's Marine Division. She served as the liaison for personnel and time management for subordinate officers between the Harbor Police Department and the Port of New Orleans' Human Relations Division. She coordinated working relationships with outside law enforcement agencies, including local, state, and federal.

Under the tutelage of Chief Robert Hecker, she learned the ins and outs of being the Chief of Police. She credits Chief Hecker for being an outstanding mentor and role model in policing. On Monday, February 28, 2022, after a long interview process, Melanie received the call that she was selected to be the next Chief of Police for the Harbor Police Department. Chief Montroll is the first African American female Chief of Police for the Harbor Police Department and one of the first in the State of Louisiana. Chief Montroll is married to Danyell Montroll and has a son Daniel and live in the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan area. She is an inspiring member of our community and I congratulate her on this incredible achievement.

SUPPORTING H.R. 5001, THE UPPER COLORADO AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS RECOVERY ACT

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5001, the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Recovery Act. This bipartisan bill would reauthorize and extend critical endangered fish recovery programs in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program was first established in the 1980s to help bring four species of endangered fish back from the brink of extinction, while continuing existing water development and ensuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program was established in 1992, and similarly works to protect these endangered fish in the San Juan River sub-basin, a part of the larger Upper Colorado River Basin.

These programs are unique collaborative efforts between local, state and Tribal officials, federal agencies, water and power interests, and environmental groups—all working together to recover these endangered species, preserve ecosystems, and maintain water development.

These four species of fish are only found in the Colorado River Basin—making the work of the recovery partners crucial to their recovery. Both programs work collaboratively for the recovery of these species, and have become models for their collaborative conservation efforts to protect endangered species.

Last year, one of the endangered species in the Upper Colorado River Basin—the humpback chub—was moved from endangered to threatened status due to the many years of effort from this partnership. Another species—the razorback sucker—was also proposed for delisting last summer, resulting from the actions of the recovery programs and their partners over the past 30 years.

My bill would reauthorize these critical programs through 2024 and extend current reporting deadlines for the Recovery Programs.

Extending the program authorization an additional year allows federal partners to include funding for the programs in their three-year budgetary planning cycle, and does not raise the cost ceiling for the current programs.

The bill also provides an extension of reporting requirements for the recovery programs—as requested by the program partners—to account for challenges and delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am glad to have the support of several of my colleagues from these states as cosponsors on this effort, along with the support of local and state officials across the Upper Colorado River Basin.

The technical amendments my bill makes are necessary to preserve the functioning of these successful programs, and ensure the programs are able to continue to operate smoothly for an additional year.

CELEBRATING THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NATIVO

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nativo restaurant in the community of Highland Park on its one-year anniversary.

Nativo first opened for business in November 2020, but temporarily closed its doors amid the rising COVID-19 case count. In February 2021, the colorful Guadalajara-inspired restaurant began to welcome guests again.

Nativo has been a local, family-owned operation from day one. Gabriel Paredes, a Highland Park native, draws inspiration from his family roots in the neighborhood of Guadalajara, Jalisco. He remembers walking up and down York and Figueroa with his grandfather selling boots from a beat up old white truck. "One of my dreams has always been to come back to the neighborhood that has meant so much to me," says Paredes. Corissa Hernandez, co-owner and wife, is Nativo's cultural liaison. "We want to create a platform for people of color, for women," says Hernandez.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gabriel Paredes, Corissa Hernandez, and Nativo on their one-year anniversary. I also extend to all of them my best wishes for many more years of success ahead and I invite my colleagues to stop by Nativos the next time they're in Los Angeles.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PERVIS SPANN, ALSO KNOWN AS "THE BLUES MAN"

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of an extraordinary man and broadcast radio icon, an on-air personality, and a radio station owner: Mr. Pervis Spann.

Pervis Spann was born in Itta Be, Mississippi on August 16, 1932. Growing up, he picked cotton and cared for his family when his mother fell ill. At age 14, he managed the Dixie Theater, a local Black theater. His family uprooted from Mississippi and migrated to Battle Creek, Michigan in search of jobs, education, housing, and the right to vote. Spann joined the military and fought for our Nation during the Korean War.

In the 1950s, his love for music would lead him to his first disc jockey job at WOPA in Oak Park, Illinois. In 1960, he organized his first concert, which showcased B.B. King and Junior Parker. In 1963, Phil and Leonard Chess bought a radio station that later became known as WVON. Shortly afterwards, Spann was hired by the Chess brothers as a disc jockey for their 24-hour blues station.

Spann became known as the "The Blues Man", gaining notoriety with an 87-hour sleepless "sit-in" raising money for Civil Rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On April 1, 1963, Spann and his business partner, Wesley South, would purchase the radio station and create the mantra, "The Voice of the Negro."

Spann was a master marketer, utilizing the radio airwaves to promote some of the biggest concerts and shows in Chicago during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, and providing a platform for African American musicians and entertainers. He formed the Delta Production Company, a concert production and marketing company which produced shows at The Regal Theatre, Arie Crown Theatre, the Lyric Opera House, the Aragon Ballroom, and the Trianon Ballroom. Spann was also the owner of The Burning Spear nightclub and several other establishments.

Spann booked James Brown; Sammy Davis, Jr.; The Temptations; Chaka Khan; Dinah Washington; Jerry Butler; The Impressions; The Four Tops; Marvin Gaye; Al Green; Otis Clay; Earth, Wind & Fire; Sam Cooke; The Staple Singers; The Commodores; Marvin Gaye; Cab Calloway; Roy Hamilton; Jackie Wilson; Little Richard; and Count Basie. Notably, he was most famous for crowning Aretha Franklin "the Queen of Soul" in 1962.

For nearly six decades, Spann's radio station played a pivotal role in creating a platform for community, business, and political leaders. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. could be heard regularly on the Wesley South Show, Malcolm X and Elijah Muhammad were part of the evening format, and Mayor Harold Washington favored WVON for his public service announcements. In 1968, WVON was the first station in the country to announce the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when Reverend Jesse Jackson called from Memphis with the news on April 4, 1968.

In 1975, WVON was sold and changed frequency. Spann formed a business partnership with Vernon Jarrett and Wesley South and bought the license to the original frequency in 1979. The new radio station, WXOL, was an all-blues format where musicians such as Johnny Taylor, Buddy Guy, KoKo Taylor, Howlin' Wolf, Otis Clay, and many others could be heard. In 1983, the station reclaimed the old call letters of WVON.

In 2012, Pervis Spann was inducted in the Blues Hall of Fame for his contributions in media, production, and business. He joined legendary musical luminaries such as B.B. King, Etta James, Mavis Staples, and Willie Dixon.

Spann was the epitome of the American dream—he went from 'sharecropping to shareholding'. Throughout his life, Spann used the radio station as an outlet to cultivate new aspiring radio personalities. He was always willing to give a helping hand to those who needed work and support, and he both recognized talent and encouraged young people to pursue a college education.

Spann, along with his wife, Mrs. Lovie Spann, and four children, Melody, Darrell, Latrice, and Chante, continued to call the South Side of Chicago home for the rest of his life. Pervis Spann's loss is deeply felt across Chicago, the nation, and even the world.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family—Lovie, Melody, Darrell, Latrice, and Chante—and with all who loved and were impacted by this truly great man.

RECOGNIZING ARLINGTON COUNTY'S FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of our first responders for their heroism during the COVID-19 pandemic and every day for their bravery and selflessness. Arlington County's first responders have been on the frontlines, making more than 300 trips in 2021 to Culpepper Garden, consistently risking their own well-being to protect and serve our community members.

I share my colleagues' enthusiasm in the General Assembly and on the Arlington County Board in dedicating the Arlington County First Responders Bench at Culpepper Garden to recognize and celebrate all first responders on this day, March 25, 2022.

I urge all residents to join the Arlington Network for Community Readiness and help us all prepare for and respond to an emergency and to sign up for the Disaster Volunteer Registry to be a volunteer resource for our area during an emergency.

I also commend the staff and residents of Culpepper Garden for enhancing our community in so many ways. As a nonprofit retirement community that is home to 450 low-income seniors who live in 346 independent living and assisted living apartments, they help make our community dynamic and vibrant.

Please join me in commemorating these heroic first responders.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER OF MICHAEL LAVOIE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Michael J. Lavoie, a dedicated public servant whose commitment to protecting the safety of the people of Worcester, Massachusetts has saved countless lives over the last three decades.

Joining the Worcester Fire Department in 1987, Chief Lavoie served for 14 years as a firefighter. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2001, captain in 2008, and then Worcester Fire Safety Division District Chief and North End District Chief in 2009 and 2011, respectively. Finally, Chief Lavoie was named chief of the Worcester Fire Department in 2017. During his tenure, Chief Lavoie led the department and the City of Worcester through challenging times with grace and strength.

Throughout his career, Chief Lavoie facilitated great improvements. He helped implement training workshops and instituted a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, which uses safety features like a thermal imager and enhanced communication capabilities to protect the health of firefighters. Chief Lavoie also worked tirelessly with Worcester City Manager Ed Augustus to bring new vehicles to the department and to make sure every firetruck was always fully staffed.

Madam Speaker, the impact Chief Lavoie had on the Worcester Fire Department cannot

be understated. He has shown, time and time again, incredible leadership and commitment to the people of Worcester.

Chief Lavoie is a public servant, through and through. Over the course of his 35-year long career, he gave so much to the City of Worcester and improved the working conditions of firefighters along the way. I also have to thank Chief Lavoie's family for supporting him in his service to our city. Their sacrifice has allowed all of us to have a safer place to call home.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and all the people in whose lives Chief Lavoie has made a difference, it is my great privilege to thank and recognize Chief Michael J. Lavoie for his service to the people of Massachusetts and his unwavering commitment to making a safer world.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAFT COLLEGE

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Taft College and recognize the profound contribution the school has made to our community over the last century.

Established on August 30, 1922, Taft College emerged from humble beginnings. Sharing a campus with Taft Union High School at the time, Taft College enrolled 10 students in its first year of operation. As one of only 15 community colleges in California in the early 1920s, the Taft Union High School District Board—the founders of Taft College—envisioned that the school would transform the region by offering local students unprecedented access to higher education. Since then, the school has done just that, producing leaders in business, law, nursing, education, athletics, and public service.

Today, Taft College is bustling, operating its own independent campus of nearly 40 acres and its enrollment has grown to 2,400 students. With an average class size of 18 students, students may enroll in any of the 43 degree and 30 certificate programs offered at Taft College and receive high-quality instruction in fields of study ranging from Liberal Arts to Engineering in small group settings.

Throughout the past century, Taft has proven itself as a leader among community colleges. In 1995, the school created the Transition to Independent Living (TIL) Program and in 1997, pioneered a distance learning program. The TIL Program is a two-year, post-secondary educational program that provides training and support for students with developmental or intellectual disabilities and helps prepare them to lead confident, self-sufficient lives. Taft College's innovative, first-of-its-kind distance learning program offers greater flexibility to students pursuing a degree while balancing additional priorities at work and in life. Both programs have garnered respect and accolades from educational leaders within and beyond the Taft community.

Taft College's success and the critical role that it plays in uplifting individuals throughout California's Central Valley are undeniable. I am confident that Taft College will continue to